

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06365 220806Z

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PRS-01 IGA-02 /063 W

-----038651 220840Z /20

R 220725Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2399

INFO CINCPACFLT

COMIDEASTFOR

JCS

CNO

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 6365

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MORG, MOPS, PK, US

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST FORCE - THE NEW FORMAT

REF: STATE 141742

1. WE AGREE WITH DEPARTMENT THAT THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO APPROACH THE GOP CONCERNING A TWO-WEEK SELF-MAINTENANCE PERIOD FOR MIDEASTFOR IN KARACHI. THE PROSPECTS FOR USING KARACHI FOR FLAGSHIP SELF-MAINTENANCE WILL OBVIOUSLY DEPEND ON THE STATE OF US/PAK RELATIONS AFTER THE CURRENT POLITICAL CONFRONTATION IN PAKISTAN IS OVER. WE ARE ENTERING AN ELECTION PERIOD IN WHICH ANTI-AMERICANISM WILL PROBABLY BE AN IMPORTANT CAMPAIGN THEME.

2. ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WILL NOT BE A FURTHER DRAMATIC DECLINE IN US/PAK RELATIONS, HOWEVER, WE WOULD CONCLUDE THAT THE TWO-WEEK SELF-MAINTENANCE PERIOD WOULD BE REASONABLE AND ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOP. WE NOTE THAT EVEN IN THE CURRENT ATMOSPHERE OF GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED ATTACKS ON THE US, THE PAK NAVY IS STILL INTERESTED IN US SHIP VISITS, AND WE HAVE RECEIVED STANDARD APPROVAL

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FOR RECENTLY REQUESTED VISITS. BARRING A MAJOR DISINTEGRATION IN US/PAK TIES, WE THEREFORE BELIEVE THE GOP WILL NOT OBJECT TO THE PROPOSED MAINTENANCE PERIOD.

3. WE ASSUME THAT THE SELF-MAINTENANCE PERIOD IS PART OF RATHER THAN IN ADDITION TO OUR AGREED UPON FIFTEEN DAYS PER QUARTER PIER TIME FOR USN SHIPS. WE CONSEQUENTLY

RECOMMEND THAT MIDEASTFOR CONSIDER SPENDING ONE WEEK OF  
THE MAINTENANCE PERIOD AT PIER SIDE AND ONE WEEK AT ANCHOR.  
WITH THAT CAVEAT, AND WITH THE UNDERSTANDING WE WILL TAKE  
ANOTHER LOOK AT THE POLITICAL SITUATION AS WE COME CLOSER  
TO OUR FIRST SUCH VISIT, THE EMBASSY SUPPORTS THE ONE  
SELF-MAINTENANCE PERIOD PER YEAR RECOMMENDED REFTEL.  
CONSTABLE

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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